GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:647
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2001
TELECOM FACILITIES IN ASSAM
TARUN GOGOI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria fixed for opening of telephone exchanges in villages;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges functioning at present in Assam and proposed to be set up during 2000-2001;

(c) the number of villages in the State where telephone facility is available at present and the Number of villages in which no such facility is available;

(d) the time by which said facility is likely to be provided in the remaining villages;

(e) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the State at present, district-wise;

(f) the steps take by the Government to clear the waiting list;
(g) the cities and towns which have been covered with optical fibres so far and which are proposed to be covered in the State during 2001-2002, district-wise; and
(h) the time by which the remaining areas are likely to be covered?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Minimum registered demand for 10 new telephone connections is required for opening of a new telephone exchange in a village provided this demand cannot be met from an existing exchange within the SDCA.

(b) Total 459 telephone exchanges are functioning in Assam as on 31.1.2001. 60 new telephone exchanges have been planned to be opened during the year 2000-2001.

(c) 14,478 villages out of 24,685 villages in the State are covered by Public telephones as on 31.1.2001.

(d) All the remaining villages are likely to be covered by Public Telephone facility by 31.3.2002.

(e) Total waiting list in Assam State as on 31.1.2001 is 25,680. Telecom. District-wise break up is as follows:

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Bongaigaon - 5514
Dibrugarh - 2953
Jorhat  - 6604
Kamrup  - 2122
Nagaon  - 1627
Silchar  - 3535
Tezpur  - 3325
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(f) All out efforts are being made to clear the present waiting list within six months.

(g) & (h): Out of 23 Revenue District Headquarters in the State, 14 are connected through OFC link. OFC connectivity is planned at the remaining 9 DHQs in a phased manner by 31st March, 2002.